WHEREAS, Although we are committed to equal opportunities for all persons, large numbers of school-age children are not being afforded equal educational opportunities because of learning disabilities; and,

WHEREAS, These disabilities, ranging from mild to severe, affect thousands of children in South Dakota alone and expert studies show the prevalence of learning disorders can range from three per cent for severe problems to fifteen per cent and more for disabilities of varying severity; and,

WHEREAS, These disorders, often accompanied by behavioral problems, prevent the children affected from achieving their full potential unless they are given special help; and,

WHEREAS, This barrier is doubly tragic, since ample experience has shown that these children, who have normal or above normal intelligence, can be helped to become self-supporting and contributing citizens of our society; and,

WHEREAS, Children thwarted by their educational experiences, however, can become dependent on social welfare and rehabilitative agencies for the rest of their lives, and the cost of maintaining a person over a lifetime can reach ten to twenty times the expense of providing the special help during the school years that can lead instead to a productive life; and,

WHEREAS, The State of South Dakota is responding to the problem, but the major effort must be waged at the local level. Parents, educators, school boards and other concerned individuals and groups must combine community resources if we are to fully meet this serious challenge:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD F. KNEIP, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the week of September 15 - 22, 1974, as

CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES WEEK

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens who consider children to be an irreplaceable asset to observe this week and support local learning disabilities programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this 13th day of September, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-Four

Richard F. Kneip

RICHARD F. KNEIP, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Jean Tollison, Assistant

LORNA B. HERSETH, SECRETARY OF STATE

PROCLAMATION
CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES
September 15-22, 1974

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA - BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION - OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY
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